



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

According to the [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#), companies of every size and industry, across nearly every state, are facing unprecedented challenges trying to find enough workers to fill over 10M open jobs. The Cooperative Extension System (Extension) supports people of all ages and backgrounds seeking to advance current skills or to launch a new career. Extension professionals take systems-driven and audience-driven approaches to support workforce development. Investments in Extension help people build life and career skills that make a real difference. Examples of how Extension programs are advancing workforce development include:



Preparing the Next Generation of Workers: To address growing employment opportunities in the computer and information technology field, Ohio 4-H and Apple partnered to create [Clovers CODE \(Creating Opportunities Designed for Everyone\)](#), reaching 6,274 4-H youth across 44 counties in 2021. This helped youth become content creators, rather than just content consumers of technology.



Building Small Business Owner Skills: Through the [Arkansas Procurement Technical Assistance Center \(PTAC\)](#), a collaboration between the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture and the Defense Logistics Agency, over 2,200 hours of counseling sessions and 80 events, Arkansas PTAC assisted approximately 1000 clients who received a total of 1,965 government contracts totaling over \$202 million.



Ensuring Consumer Food Safety: Foodborne illness is a serious, common, costly, and preventable public health problem that results in nearly 48 million cases, 128,000 hospitalizations, and 3,000 deaths each year in the U.S. Most states require that restaurants and food establishments employ food-safety certified staff-offered by Extension. According to 2021 data, over 2,000 Iowans participated in [ServSafe](#) classes taught by Extension Specialists, with 76.5% successfully earning the [Certified Food Protection Manager](#) credential.



Supporting Beginning Farmers and Foresters: The [Tennessee State University Extension established a New Farmer Academy](#) that supports new farmers and returning veterans. Enrolling over 150 participants, the 7-month program engaged farmers in hands-on and virtual training opportunities ranging from federal resource and conservation programs, soil testing and restoration, equipment safety, rotational grazing, pasture renovation and management, multi-species grazing, animal husbandry, forestry and timber management, vegetables, agritourism, farmers markets and other issues.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

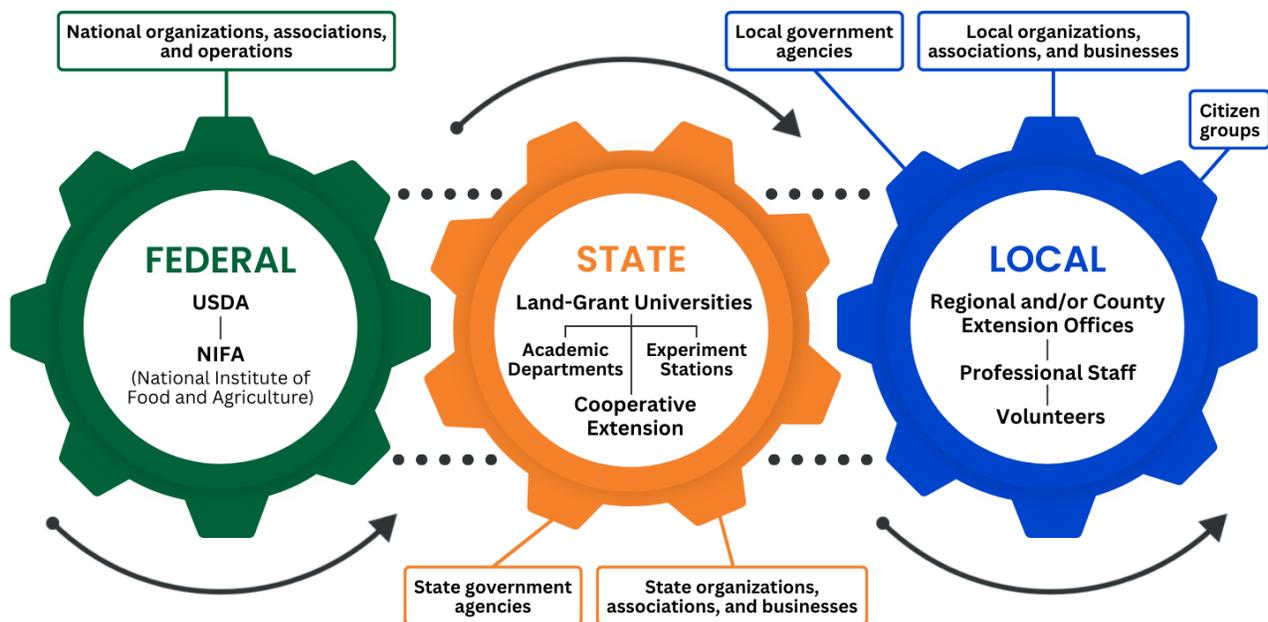
Investing in the Cooperative Extension System through Smith-Lever, 1890s Extension, 1994 Extension, and new partnership funding will allow the System to build out the educational resources that address the challenges faced by today's workforce and employers. This investment will result in more successful work and career outcomes, more viability for businesses, and more sustainable economic growth.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

AN UNPRECEDENTED REACH

The [Cooperative Extension System](#), in partnership with [USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture \(NIFA\)](#), [National 4-H Council](#), and [Extension Foundation](#), is translating research into action for agriculture, health, natural resources, and human sciences to rapidly get practical tools and knowledge into the hands of people and communities who need them.

With over 32,000 state and local professionals and 1M+ volunteers, Extension is a nationwide, educational network that empowers farmers, ranchers, families, and communities to meet the challenges they face. With its wide reach — an office in or near most of the nation's approximately 3,000 counties — Extension professionals help people to adapt to changing agricultural practices and technology; improve nutrition, health, and food safety; prepare for and respond to emergencies; protect our environment; and prepare the nation's youth with essential skills to become tomorrow's leaders.



TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO ACTION

[Land-Grant University](#) faculty members translate science-based research results into practical educational resources appropriate for targeted audiences.

County-based educators work at the local level to identify issues, provide outreach education, evaluate the effectiveness of learning tools, and collect grassroots input to prioritize future research needs.

By living and working in communities, county Extension educators leverage relationships to respond to local needs, build trust, and engage effectively with their communities. [Find Extension in every state and territory using this interactive map.](#)